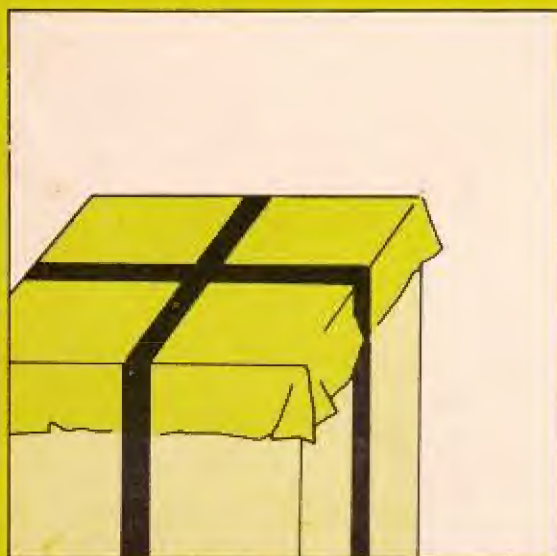


# GETTING TO KNOW ABOUT PAPER



MADHUBAN





Before paper was invented, people had to scratch words and pictures on pieces of wood or stone, dried leaves, animal skins, or pieces of tree bark.





The Egyptians pasted dried strips of the papyrus plant together and wrote on them.





The Chinese were the first to make paper, and for hundreds of years no one else knew about it.





After a long time, when the Arabs were fighting the Chinese, they captured a person who knew how to make paper. He taught the Arabs, and later, when the Arabs conquered Spain, they taught the Spaniards. Soon Europeans were making paper.



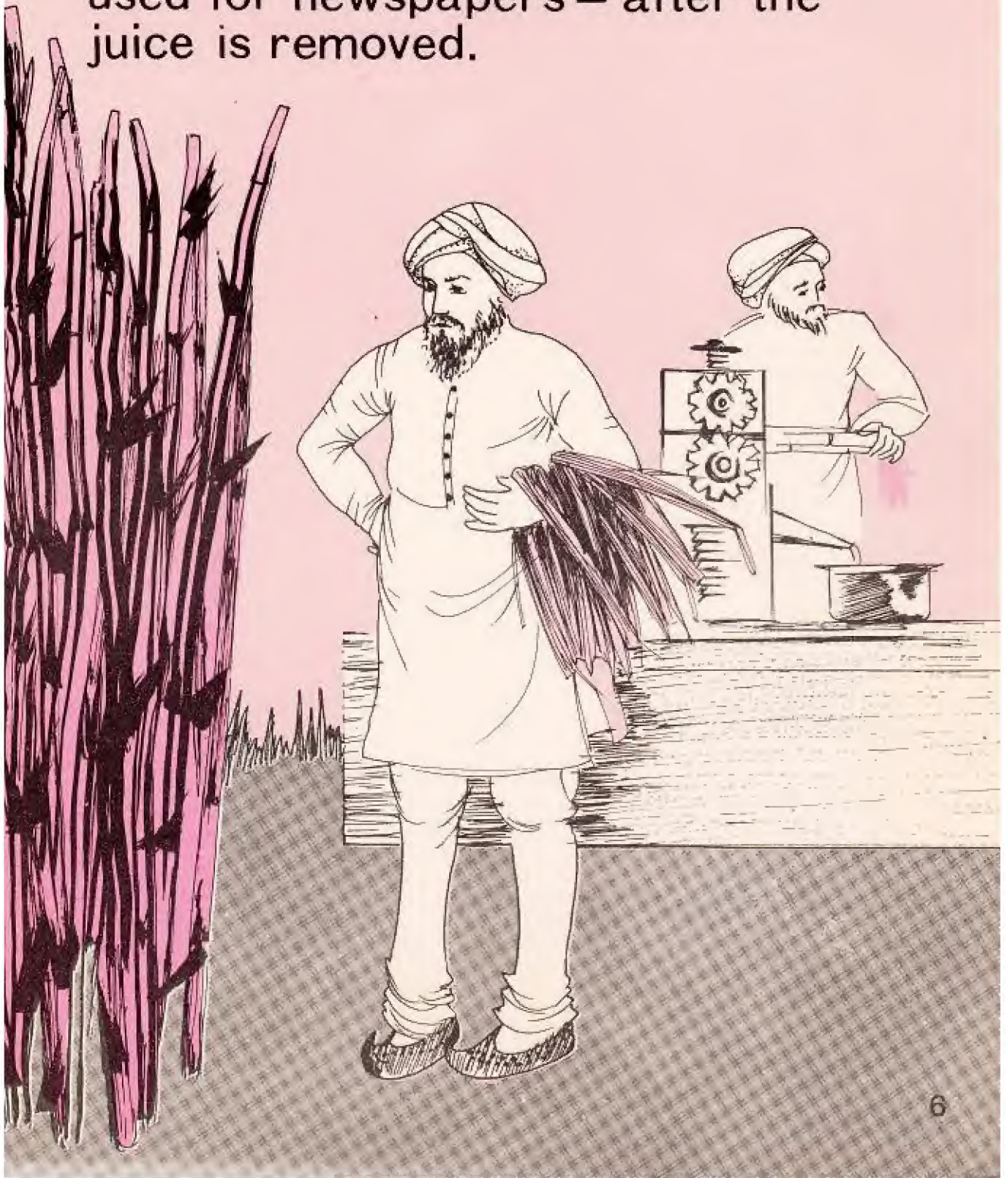


Can you guess what paper is made from ? You may have seen rag-pickers on the road. They are collecting rags, from which paper is made.



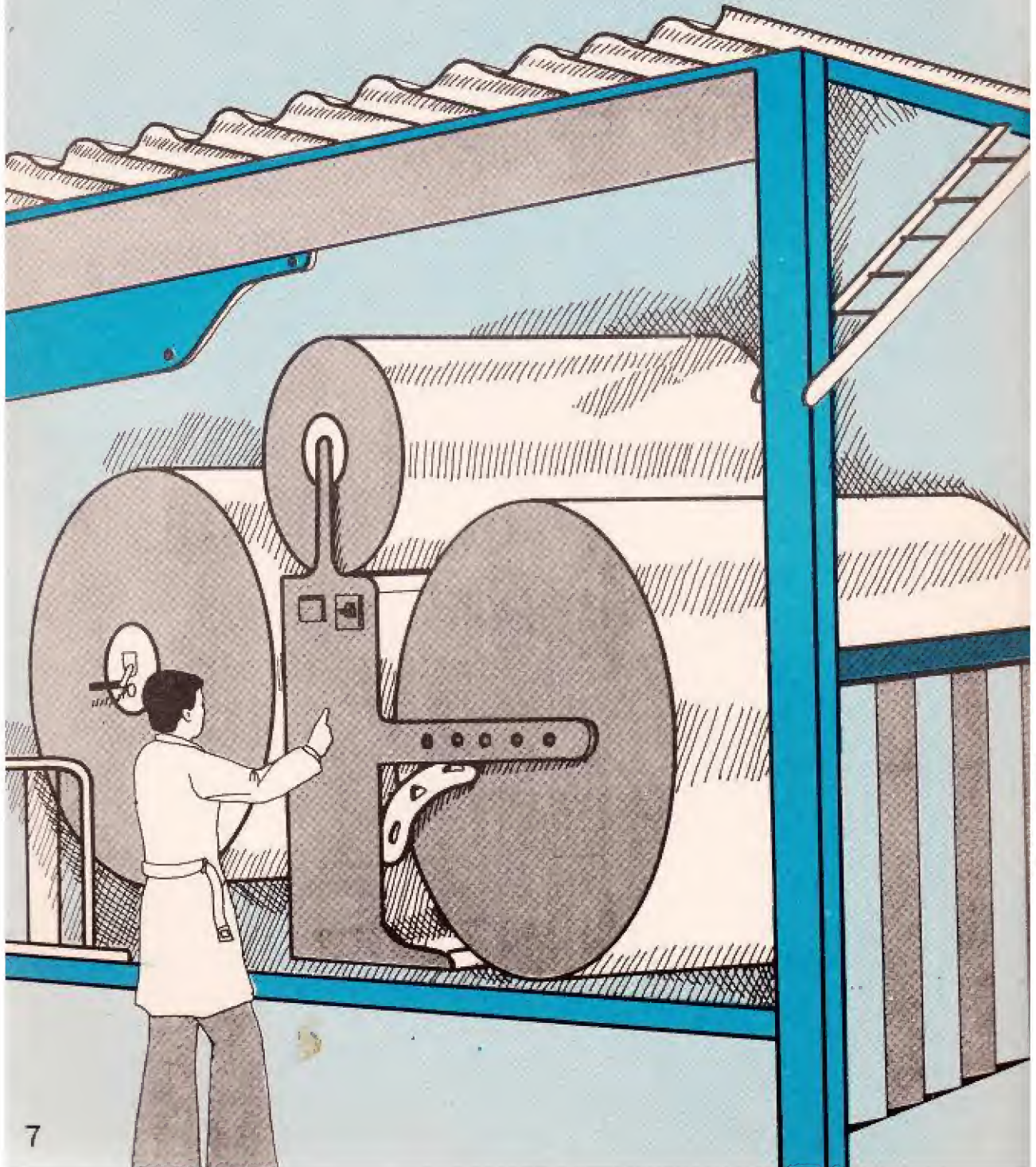


Paper is also made from wood. In India, sugarcane pulp is sometimes used for newspapers – after the juice is removed.





Paper can be made by machines. A paper mill can make lots of paper.





Paper is also made by hand. First,  
bits of rag and old paper are  
soaked in water for a few days.





The softened rag and old paper is then pounded by the strong young men of the village.





This pulp is spread thinly on the walls of the huts. When it dries it is paper.





Paper is used in many ways. Money and stamps are made from paper. It is also used for wrapping things.





In Kashmir paper and rags are used to make ashtrays, bowls, vases and other beautiful things. This is called papier-mâché.



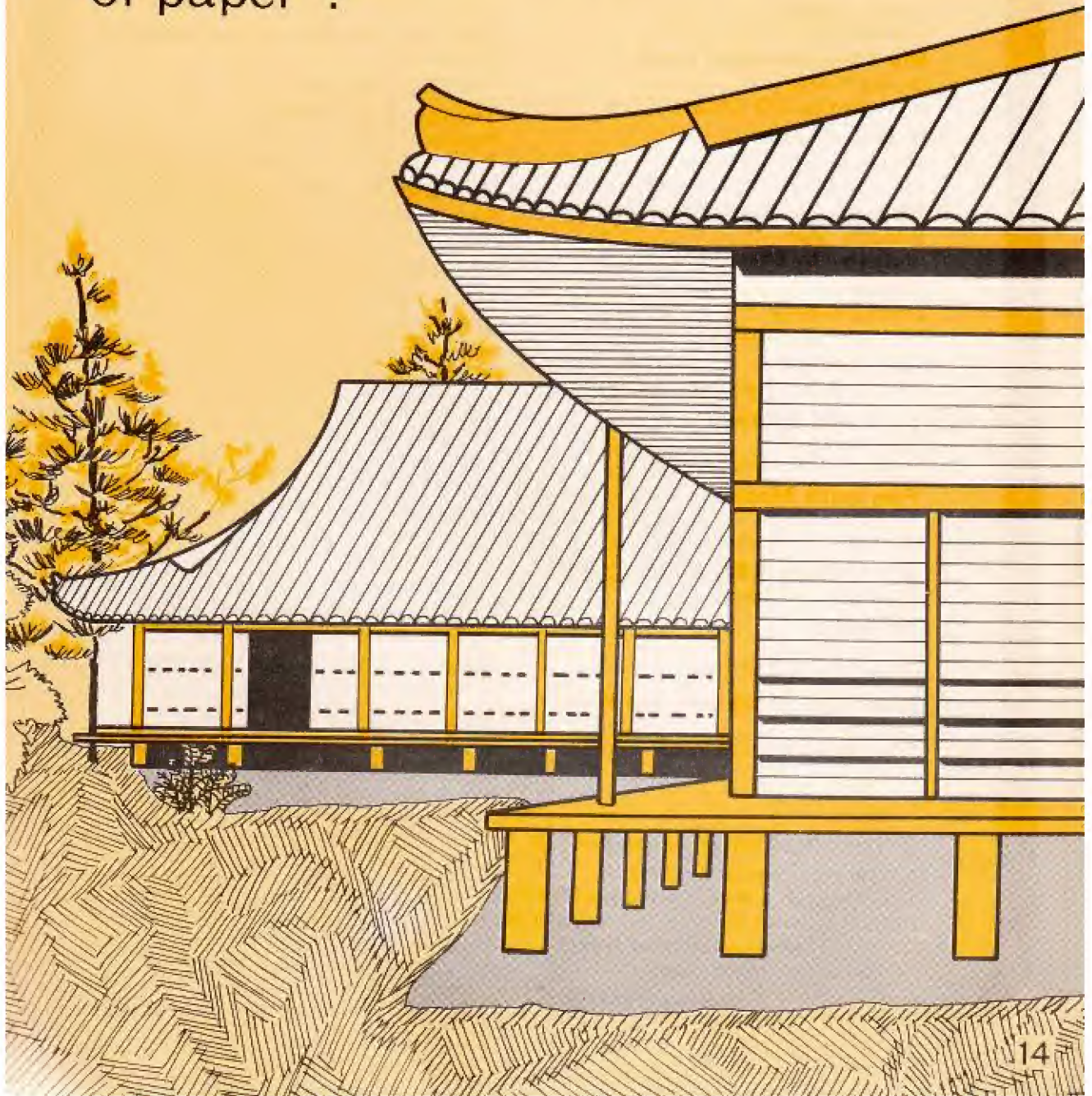


Books are made from paper, and artists use it to make paintings. In some countries plates, napkins, and table cloths are made from paper.





In Japan, the walls of houses are made of paper pasted on wooden frames. This way, even if the walls break during an earthquake, no one is hurt. Can you think of other uses of paper ?







MADHUBAN

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